

The A. P. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of current events, including labor news from the industrial, legislative, and political fronts. It contains other labor news, and is sent to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN LABOR PRESS

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Published by the American Labor Press, Inc., 1115 N. 1st St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107. Phone 461-4400. Cable 1115. Second-class postage paid at Philadelphia, Pa. Postmaster: Send address changes to American Labor Press, Inc., 1115 N. 1st St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107.

WHOLE NO. 1823

WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1946

GREENE HART, Secretary-Treasurer

VOL. 36, NO. 12

Offers Clean Industry "Negotiable Suggestions"

Reasonable Bid to Enter Bargaining Surprises Operators

Washington, D. C.—The United Mine Workers Union told the soft coal industry by surprise when it presented its case for higher wages, better safety regulations and a health and welfare fund in the form of "negotiable suggestions."

Those who had expected the miners to issue flat and uncompromising demands were caught off balance by the union's offer to engage in collective bargaining on a reasonable basis.

"We present no arbitrary formula on hours or wages," UMW President John L. Lewis told the National Bituminous Coal Wage Conference. "We are ready to work with you in your mines. What have you got to offer us, Mr. Coal? Make us an offer, gentlemen. Maybe, we will say."

In a masterful summation of the union's case, Mr. Lewis castigated the coal operators for the heavy expenditure of funds and the loss of life and limb in coal mines.

"After shocking facts and figures to support the union's request for a health and welfare fund, Mr. Lewis said:

"I wonder if the public like to have its coal mined with blood. I wonder if the operators are happy in contemplating the mounting toll of blood in coal."

Challenging the operators with the question "It can't be helped?" Mr. Lewis asked the operators, "What is the answer?"

How many operators did not say "No?" Lewis asked. How many operators did not say "Yes?" Lewis asked. How many operators did not say "Maybe?" Lewis asked.

Mr. Lewis said that the industry had been operating at a loss for years, and that the industry had been operating at a loss for years, and that the industry had been operating at a loss for years.

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Lewis Indicts Operators For Slaughtering of Miners

Washington, D. C.—John L. Lewis dramatically charged that the bituminous coal industry in the last 14 years, through mismanagement, cupidity, stupidity and wanton neglect, killed 28,000 miners and "violently mangled, crushed and shattered the bodies" of another 140,000.

Facing mine operator representatives at an open session of the national coal wage conference, the UMW President charged that the bituminous coal industry in a period of 14 years have, through mismanagement, cupidity, stupidity and wanton neglect, killed 28,000 miners.

The high point of the conference came when Mr. Lewis, summarizing the evidence supporting the union's demand for a "health and welfare fund" leveled this indictment at the coal operators:

"We accuse, by the record, that the management and stockholders of the bituminous coal industry in a period of 14 years have, through mismanagement, cupidity, stupidity and wanton neglect, killed 28,000 miners.

"We accuse by the record, that in the same period the same management and stockholders have, for the same reasons, violently mangled, crushed and shattered the bodies of 140,000 miners.

"We accuse by the record that the management and stockholders of the bituminous coal industry in a period of 14 years have, through mismanagement, cupidity, stupidity and wanton neglect, killed 28,000 miners.

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"We challenge on the record, refutation point by point.

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S. J. GOMPERS DIES; SON OF AFL FOUNDER

Washington, D. C.—Samuel J. Gompers, 77, whose father, the AFL founder, died at his home here today.

Mr. Gompers retired in October, 1941, after 44 years of service with the federal government. From 1915 until the death of his father, he was chief of the Labor Department.

High tribute was paid to Mr. Gompers by Secretary of Labor, Harold I. Brown, and Secretary Perkins and AFL leaders.

Mr. Gompers was born in England and came to this country in 1874.

He was active in the labor movement from an early age.

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Free Labor, Green Demands Pledge to Support Navy

AFL Pledges To Support Navy "Second To None"

Philadelphia—President William Green pledged the American Federation of Labor's support for the construction and maintenance of a navy "second to none" as a national defense measure and to prevent outbreak of a third world war.

Speaking at a dinner given by the AFL Metal Trades Council in Philadelphia and attended by many high navy and government officials, Mr. Green said:

"The United Nations Organization was based upon the principle that justice between nations should be settled according to the principles of justice. Unfortunately, there are still some nations which regard justice as a mere word—nations which do not believe in justice."

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Assails Federal Mistakes in Labor and Economic Policies

Cardinals, Pa.—In a hard-hitting address which made federal officials in Washington sit up and take notice, AFL Secretary William Green blasted the government's unwise wage-price stabilization policy, condemned the administration's intervention in labor disputes and offered an entirely new program to take the nation off its prolonged "emergency" status within one year.

Speaking to a large audience gathered in a local hotel, Green said that the government's wage-price stabilization policy was a "disaster" and that the government's intervention in labor disputes was a "disaster."

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75,000 Dressmakers Win Pay Boost Of \$13,600 From Arbitration

New York City—Utilizing the industrial chain system of arbitration, the 75,000 dressmakers in the garment industry have won a pay raise of \$13,600 from arbitration.

The arbitration award, which was made by the National Labor Relations Board, was a result of a dispute between the dressmakers and their employers.

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Rails Eliminate Company Unions

Washington, D. C.—Once powerful in many crafts, "company unions" have been practically driven out of the railroad industry by the National Labor Relations Board's 11th annual report.

A tabulation of union strength published by the NLRB shows that company unions have been practically driven out of the railroad industry by the National Labor Relations Board's 11th annual report.

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Durable Homes, Not Chicken Coops, Needed By Veterans, States Insists

New York City—American veterans want durable, safe and sanitary homes, not chicken coops, the National Public Housing Conference says.

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Boilermakers Gain Raises Without A Single Strike

Kansas City, Kan.—When President Truman declared at a recent White House press conference that newspapers play up strikes in headlines but ignore the vast number of wage disputes that are settled peacefully, he was "dead right" in the opinion of Charles J. McGowan, president of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers.

The vast majority of industrial disputes, he said, "especially those in which the workers are concerned, are settled without a single strike."

"Our own union, the Boilermakers, is a typical example. We haven't had a strike in 10 years," McGowan said.

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